



9/24/03

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Michigan Tax Tribunal

- The Senate approved the nomination of Jack Van Coevering to the Michigan Tax Tribunal [RC 429: 37 yes, 0 no].

RESOLUTIONS

SCR 33 (Sikkema)

A concurrent resolution to disapprove of Governor Granholm's Executive Order (2003-14) creating the Department of Labor and Economic Growth. This executive order will consolidate Michigan's economic development programs (and licensing requirements, etc.) into one, streamlined department, in an effort to maximize efficiencies and effectiveness of these programs, thus saving taxpayers money and better helping the state create jobs.

- The Republicans moved to suspend Senate Rules to take up SCR 33 without waiting for the resolution to be printed in the Senate Journal. Democrats objected to this rush to move SCR 33; however, the Republicans overrode this objection.
- Committee 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This made one, minor technical change.
- SCR 33 was adopted [RC 430: 22 yes (Republicans), 16 no (Dems)].

Senate Democratic leader, Bob Emerson, spoke against adopting this resolution. He argued the resolution was simply an attempt by the Republicans to protect several political appointees of former (Republican) Governor Engler. Sen. Mark Schauer (D) argued that defeat of the Governor's modernization of the state's economic development programs will cost Michigan jobs. This would be especially harmful due to the fact that Michigan has lost more than 250,000 jobs since 2001.

THIRD READING

HB 4236 (Ehardt)

House Bill 4236 would add Respiratory Therapist as a license health profession in Michigan. Fees for an individual licensed or seeking licensure as a respiratory therapist would be as follows: Application processing fee - \$20. Registration fee - \$75 per year. Temporary registration fee - \$75 per year.

Support: Michigan Society for Respiratory Care, American Lung Association, Michigan Thoracic Society, MI Health and Hospital Assn.

Oppose: SEIU, Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Education, AFL-CIO – First, this bill does not insure additional quality care for consumers. Second, there is no funding available for start-up cost associated with adding a new registration category. These costs could total up to \$100,000 and include copies, postage, travel, and set up. Additionally, with the loss of staff due to early retirements, the Department estimates the need for four to five new employees to handle the applications, continuing education, and allegation and complaint investigations.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- HB 4236 was moved to 3rd Reading.